

INFORMATION REPORT
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COUNTRY USSR

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SUBJECT Coastal Defenses and Port Installations

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SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. Fortress of Kronstadt: All defensive installations (including four submarine shelters on the northeast side of the island) were completely repaired at the end of the war. Eighteen hundred PWs were engaged in this work. Shortly afterward, units of heavy artillery with guns of more than 450 mm, six heavy AA batteries, and three light AA batteries were installed. In addition, on the southeast and south of the island are units, each with four turret guns (pièces jumelles) of more than 300 mm. More than 2,000 men garrison the fortress. New submarine shelters were built in 1946, two on the northeast and two on the north side of the island. All the submarine pens are in the northern part of the island. Two docks have been built in the port, and a dry dock will be built nearby. (Also see [redacted])
2. Port of Mesen (65°50'N; 44°15'E): Every four weeks during the winter a flotilla of six ice-breakers opens the mouth of the Mesen River in order to maintain communications toward Mys Severny. The port of Mesen has two large wheat elevators and two fuel tanks with a capacity of about 300,000 liters. The port is guarded by 600 soldiers and marines (sailors?) and four torpedo boats on which exercises are held daily.

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3. Fortifications of Sevastopol

The port was severely damaged during the war and has been reconstructed. Strong casemates for fortress artillery have been cut in the rock. Coastal batteries south of the port have been reinforced with three batteries of 455mm naval artillery; the guns, in a concrete shelter 150 cm thick, have about a 45 degree field of fire. Casemates on the northwest side have six 305 mm batteries. The garrison consists of 900 marines and 300 men who belong to a communications unit. Three torpedo boats guard the port.

Seventy-five kms. east of Sevastopol is a large maneuver ground and firing range, where V-2 weapon tests have been made.

4. Port of Feodosia (45°1'N; 35°23'E): The fortifications and port installations have been repaired, and four batteries of fortress artillery have been re-established. Feodosia is an important distribution center for liquid fuel for

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the Caucasus. In the port are large grain elevators and four gasoline storage tanks. The garrison consists of 4,000 men, 2,000 of whom are marines (sailors?). The road from Vladivostok and Eli to Feodosia, completed in 1946, is one of the best in the Crimea.

5. Military activities at Balaklava (44°29'N; 33°40'E): Debarkation exercises by marine debarkation units from Sevastopol with a complement of 3,000 men were held here. Naval and air units coordinated. The point of departure was Bakhchisarai (44°43'N; 33°50'E).

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